

Epiphany January 5, 2025

Gathering *God invites us to enter His presence*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

Call to Worship

Dennis Lesher

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

—Psalm 72:1-5, NRSV

Invocation

Dennis Lesher

O God, you spoke your Word
and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.
Fill all creation with that Word again
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,
we may become one living body,
your incarnate presence on the earth. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn 97

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Confessing *God invites us to be honest with Him*

Call to Confession

Dennis Lesher

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sin to God.

—based on John 3:19, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Dennis Lesher

God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world,
but we choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of

your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.
Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach
your Word to the nations and tell of your glory shining in the face of
Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Dennis Lesher

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.
If we say that we have fellowship with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;
but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

—1 John 1:5-7, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

! Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You

All: And also with you

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.
With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love.
With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Offering

Offertory *My Soul Will Wait*

! Doxology


Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

Emmanuel, God with us, the Magi followed the star to find you.
Amazed, they gave gifts. We too are amazed by your presence

among us, by the gift that you are to us. With joyful hearts, we bring you our gifts of time, of money, of ourselves. Use these and us to serve you and your world. **Amen.**

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

 **Preparation Hymn 235** *At the Name of Jesus*

Scripture Reading *John 1:1-13*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, ¹³ who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.

Sermon *“Believe in His Name!”*
 Rev. Tim Latham

 **Song of Response** *Dayspring*

Verse 1
Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true the only light,
Son of righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high be near,
Day star in my heart appear.

Verse 2
Dark and cheerless is the morn,
were it ever without Thee Joyless in the day's return,
til thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Verse 3
Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief,
Fill me radiancy divine,
scatter all my un belief.

*More and more thy self display,
shining to the perfect day.*

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

Responding

We respond to God's Word

Profession of Faith *(In Unison)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Commission Song *Blessed Be Your Name*

Verse 1

*Blessed be Your Name in the land that is plentiful;
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your Name.*

Verse 2

*Blessed be Your Name when I'm found in the dessert place,
When I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your Name.*

Pre-Chorus

*Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise;
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:*

Chorus

*Blessed be the Name of the Lord, blessed be Your Name.
Blessed be the Name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious Name.*

Verse 3

*Blessed be Your Name when the sun's shining down on me;
When the world's all as it should be, blessed be Your Name.*

Verse 4

*Blessed be Your Name on the road marked with suffering:
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your Name.*

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Bridge (2x)

*You give and take away, You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say: Lord, blessed be Your Name.*

Chorus (2x)

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**